

*The following Speech was made by JOHN WILKES, Esq;
when he was brought to the Bar of the Court of Common
Pleas, on Tuesday the 3d of May.*

I FEEL myself happy to be at last brought before a Court, and before Judges, whose Characteristic is the Love of Liberty. I have many humble Thanks to return for the immediate Order you were pleased to issue, to give me an Opportunity of laying my Grievances before you. They are of a Kind hitherto unparalleled in this free Country, and I trust the Consequences will teach Ministers of *Scottish* and arbitrary Principles, that the Liberty of an *English* Subject is not to be sported away with Impunity, in this cruel and despotic Manner.

I am accused of being the Author of the *North Briton*, No. 45. I shall only remark upon that Paper that it takes all Load of Accusation from the sacred Name of a Prince, whose Family I love and honour, as the glorious Defenders of the Cause of Liberty, and whose personal Qualities are so amiable, great, and respectable, that he is deservedly the Idol of his People. It is the peculiar Fashion and Crime of these Times, and of those who hold high ministerial Offices in Government, to throw every odious Charge from themselves upon Majesty. The Author of this Paper, whoever he may be, has, upon constitutional Principles, done directly the reverse, and is therefore in me, the supposed Author, meant to be persecuted accordingly. The particular Cruelties of my Treatment, worse than if I had been a Scots Rebel, this Court will hear, and I dare ~~my~~, from your Justice, in due Time redress.

I may perhaps still have the Means left me to shew that I have been superior to every Temptation of Corruption. They may indeed have flattered themselves, that when they found *Corruption* could not prevail, *Persecution* might intimidate. I will shew myself superior to both. My *Papers* have been seized, perhaps with a hope the better to deprive me of that Proof of their Meanness, and corrupt Prodigality, which it may possibly, in a proper Place, be yet in my Power to give.

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Gazette Dec. 8. 1763 —

The following Gentlemen composed the jury in the
Cause tried before S. C. J. Pratt at Westminster
the 6. of Dec. 1763 — Between Mr Walker Esq.
and Mr Wood & Mr Webb.

Pickenett Woodroffe Esq. of this Wick.

William Parker Esq. of Isleworth.

William Clarke } Esq. of Edmonton.

James Gould.

Stephen Pitt Esq. of Kensington.

Nathaniel Turner Esq. of Hampstead.

Jonathan Richardson Esq. of Queens Square.

John Weston

Harry Blunt

Henry Portlock

John Roberts

John Egerton Esq. of John Street.

} Esq. of Hatton Garden.

